

THE STATUS OF *PISON DOGGONUM* (HYMENOPTERA: SPHECIDAE)¹

Arnold S. Menke²

ABSTRACT: *Pison doggonum*, originally described from Mexico, is a member of the western Pacific island fauna and may be a synonym of *P. iridipenne*.

Pison doggonum Menke was described in 1988 from a single female specimen labelled simply "Mejico, Mus. Drews." It now appears that the holotype had erroneous locality data. Recently while examining some *Pison* from islands in the western Pacific Ocean I noted that specimens of *P. iridipenne* Smith looked similar to *doggonum*. *Pison iridipenne* occurs in Hawaii, Fiji, Samoa, Society Islands, Tuamotu Archipelago, Bolabola Is., Marquesas, Bismarck Archipelago, and islands in Micronesia (Krombein, 1949, Bohart and Menke, 1976, Tsuneki, 1982). I borrowed the holotype of *doggonum* from the Zoologisk Museum in Copenhagen, and compared it with material of *iridipenne* identified by Karl Krombein. The two taxa appear identical and *doggonum* may be a junior synonym, although Krombein (1949) suggests that *iridipenne* is possibly a complex of species in which the males offer the best differences. For that reason I think it would be premature to synonymize *doggonum* with *iridipenne*. In any event, *doggonum* should be considered as a member of the western Pacific insular fauna, and not the Neotropical Region.

The discovery just related underscores the fact that describing new species from single, ancient specimens with meagre locality data is a risky, unwise business.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bohart, R. M. and A. S. Menke. 1976. Sphecids wasps of the world. Univ. Calif. Press, Berkeley. 695 p.
- Krombein, K. V. 1949. The Aculeate Hymenoptera of Micronesia. I. Scoliidae, Mutillidae, Pompilidae and Sphecidae. Proc. Hawaiian Ent. Soc. 13:367-409.
- Menke, A. S. 1988. *Pison* in the New World: a revision (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae: Trypoxylini). Contrib. Amer. Ent. Inst. 24(3):1-171.
- Tsuneki K. 1982. Sphecidae collected by the Noona Dan Expedition to the Bismark and Solomon Archipelagoes (Hymenoptera). Spec. Publ. Japan Hymen. Assoc. (19):1-58.

¹Received December 4, 1989. Accepted December 4, 1989.

²Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, % U.S. National Museum, Washington DC 20560